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DE RUEHLP #0850 0871816
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 281816Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2986
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 6663
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 3987
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7874
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5128
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2352
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 2467
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 3395
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4508
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0254
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 4997
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 9578
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0235
RHMFIUU/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC
RUEANHA/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS LA PAZ 000850

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR EB/TRA/OTP, EB/TRA/AN, WHA/AND LPETRONI
STATE PASS TO DOT FOR CCOLDREN AND BHEDBERG
STATE PASS TO FAA FOR CCAPESTANY AND KBERQUIST
COMMERCE FOR JANGLIN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAIR](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [BL](#)
SUBJECT: WOULD-BE IMMIGRANTS TEMPORARILY TAKE SANTA CRUZ
AIRPORT

¶1. (U) Frustrated by repeated delays, an estimated 300 Lloyd Aereo Boliviano passengers temporarily "took" Santa Cruz' Viru Viru International Airport March 27, angrily confronting Lloyd employees and demanding that the carrier operate scheduled flights to Madrid. Thousands of Bolivians have departed for Spain in recent weeks, desperate to travel before April 1, when Spain and other EU/Schengen countries will require visas of Bolivian travelers.

¶2. (U) Press reports indicate that police quickly restored order, but tensions remain high, with as many as 500 passengers waiting for flights. Lloyd General Manager Franklin Taendler said the carrier would operate an early evening flight March 28, but the firm appears to lack the necessary jet fuel; press reports suggest, in fact, that Lloyd personnel asked each passenger for \$300 cash to help with the purchase.

¶3. (SBU) Comment: Bolivians have grown increasingly desperate to leave as the April 1 deadline has approached. An estimated 3,000 people departed for Spain the week of March 19, and thousands more have sought tickets. Even the GOB has aided the exodus, using a Bolivian Air Force-operated Transporte Aereo Militar (TAM) aircraft to transport 86 passengers to Sao Paulo March 26 to catch connecting flights to Europe. End comment.
GOLDBERG